TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 11 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 0.9 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 324.8 billion ton-miles, down 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 11 totaled 382,065, down 2.8 percent from last year, and 1.6 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 1.0 percent in the South, but down 2.7 percent in the East and 5.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings increased by 4,931 cars (4.5 percent), and crushed stone, gravel and sand showed a gain of 1,122 cars (8.8 percent). Fifteen of 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 4 totaled 86,048 trailers and/or containers, 3.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 1,511,043 trailers and/or containers, down 4.0 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/11/85:

	Loadings in Week ended May 11, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	16,482	D	6,975	29.7	D	1,205	6.8
Other farm products	3,405	D	495	12.7	I	13	0.4
Metallic ores	17,378	D	1,295	6.9	D	2,113	10.8
Coal	114,011	I	4,931	4.5	I	2,261	2.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,817	I	1,122	8.8	I	111	0.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,568	I	415	3.7	D	467	3.9
Grain mill products	10,036	D	605	5.7	D	71	0.7
Food and kindred products	11,038	I	588	5.6	D	174	1.6
Primary forest products	11,717	D	2,290	16.3	D	273	2.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,385	I	230	3.2	D	451	5.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,521	D	1,045	7.2	D	701	4.9
Chemicals and allied products	25,757	I	120	0.5	D	21	0.1
Petroleum products	4,490	D	134	2.9	D	86	1.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,542	D	540	4.5	I	50	0.4
Coke	4,916	D	683	12.2	D	516	9.5
Metals and products	8,719	D	1,622	15.7	D	1,043	10.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,160	I	994	4.7	D	139	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,622	D	1,641	16.0	D	476	5.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,709	D	671	9.1	I	43	0.6
All other carloads	58,633	D	1,503	2.5	D	879	1.5
LCL traffic	159	D	89	35.9	I	16	11.2
Total Cars Loaded	382,065	D	11,188	2.8	D	6,121	1.6
Corresponding week of 1984	393,253						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	7,057,680	7,438,948	D 5.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
18 Weeks ended May 4	307.4	319.7	D 3.9
Week ended May 11	17.4	17.6	D 0.9
19 weeks cumulative	324.8	337.3	D 3.7

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